UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

CM CONVERSION UPDATE

August 16, 2005

Over the past weekend, all 240,909 cases in the court's active case management database were successfully converted from BANCAP to CM, the case management portion of the national CM/ECF system. An additional 300,000 archived cases will be converted to CM beginning in September. Once loaded in CM, archived cases will be available to the public through our CM-based WebPACER system. Due to the limitations of BANCAP-based WebPACER, we previously have not been able to provide public access to archived cases.

The court has no plans to adopt the national CM/ECF document storage system and will continue using its locally-developed ECF system. One reason for this is that the viewing of document images through our locally developed applications is significantly faster than through CM. 99.7 percent of our in-house image retrievals take two seconds or less and 100 percent take 5 seconds or less. This speed helps ensure the timely and efficient document processing by case management staff.

Likewise, our locally developed e-filing system will continue to function as before and we have no plans to adopt the e-filing feature of CM. The reasons for this include the fact that our e-filing system is easier to use and learn and CM's document size restrictions. Our local system will accept e-filed documents containing up to 999 pages.

The court's locally developed document storage system currently hosts more than 4.4 million imaged documents (or approximately 18.5 million imaged pages) that must be linked to CM. Because the process is taking longer than expected, we have been able to successfully link only 300,000 of these imaged documents to CM since the conversion. Images of documents filed in March 2005 or later have been linked and are currently accessible through CM-based WebPACER. Images of documents filed prior to March 2005 currently are not. We expect to have all 4.4 million documents linked and available to the public through CM-based WebPACER early next week.

You will notice a number of differences between the 'old' BANCAP-based WebPACER and the 'new' CM-based WebPACER. First, the CM-based WebPACER user interface provides a completely different experience than the BANCAP-based WebPACER user interface did. Second, CM docket entries include less information than BANCAP docket entries and rely on image viewing to provide details. Third, imaged documents are available through CM-based WebPACER in pdf format only. Finally, CM-based WebPACER information is 'real-time.' This means there is no longer a 24 hour delay before information and images are available on WebPACER; instead, docket entries and images will be available to you the same day they entered in CM.

Registered e-filers may be unable to access documents with free-look hyperlinks in Notices of Electronic Filing sent prior to the conversion. You may obtain a free copy of the document by contacting the automation help desk. You may also access the document through WebPACER. However, if you choose to access the document with WebPACER, an electronic public access user fee will apply and your WebPACER account may be charged $.08 per page for the document.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding during the conversion. We will keep you informed of any further developments.